EX-SOVIET REPUBLIC TO BUILD WORLD'S FIRST ZAPPA MONUMENT

VILNIUS, Aug 08, (AP) - What do Frank Zappa and Lithuania have in common? Practically nothing. But that hasn't stopped the city of Vilnius from erecting a monument to the late rock legend. City officials said Tuesday they approved the building of a two-meter-tall stone statue of the former American rocker in a city-center park, an honor which was previously reserved for Communists.

Zappa, known for his zany, satirical music as well as for for his outspokenness on social issues, died two years ago of prostate cancer. He was 52.

Officials in Lithuania said the statue would be the first public memorial anywhere in the world to Zappa, distinguished in appearance by his long nose, should-length hair and goatee. The statue was the brainchild of Vilnius's Frank Zappa Club. In justifying the memorial to skeptics, fans argued that Zappa meant to visit the Lithuania, but died before he could make the trip.

Before the Iron Curtain fell, Zappa achieved cult status in much of Communist eastern Europe, including the Baltics, where his anti-establishment themes found particular appeal among students. Authorities said the stone likeness of Zappa could be unveiled as early as this fall.

LITHUANIAN WOMEN'S PARTY EXPECTS TO ENTER NEXT PARLIAMENT

VILNIUS, Aug 07, BNS - Lithuania today experiences a great shortage of competent politicians and "we feel capable of consolidating people to achieve certain aims," says Kazimiera Prunskiene, chairman of the Lithuanian Women's Party. Prunskiene, who headed the Lithuanian Cabinet during 1990-1991, told the Vilnius-based Russian-language daily Echo Litvy that the LWP already has over a thousand members and a number of supporters.

"It is not the number but the spirit of unity that counts, therefore the LWP has every reason to enter the next Seimas (parliament)," she noted. Prunskiene said she expected the next parliamentary elections to add freshness to "that patriarchal political structure."